Fourth Training Workshop on 'National Bamboo Database for the Division Level Users (DFOs) held at IWST, Bengaluru on 11th and 12th December 2015

Fourth Training Workshop on 'National Bamboo Database for the Division Level Users (DLUs), generally Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs), or their equivalents from other departments, from the southern States was held at IWST, Bengaluru on 11th and 12th December 2015.

11th December 2015 was kept for the training of participants representing Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka. DLUs from Andhra Pradesh could not attend this training workshop. 13 DLUs from Karnataka and 02 DLUs from newly carved State of Telengana participated in the proceedings. Shri Puneet Pathak, State Mission Director (SMD), State Bamboo Mission, Karnataka attended the proceedings and took keen interest in technical aspects of data entry.

12th December 2015 was devoted to the training of the participants from the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Goa. Only two DLUs from the flood ravaged Tamil Nadu could make it to the training programme. However, despite only two participants, this day proved fruitful on part of BTSG-ICFRE as comprehensive deliberation took place regarding the modalities of data entry, because the SMD of State Bamboo Mission belongs to Horticulture Department, whereas State Forest Department has to provide maximum information on the bamboo resource of the State. Therefore, both Horticulture Department and Forest Department need to work in a synchronized manner. During the course of training both the participants were sensitized and their accounts were opened, modalities of data entry identified and mock exercise of data entry was carried out.

BTSG – ICFRE was represented by Dr. Vimal Kothiyal ADG (RP), Shri S.S. Jain, Consultant (Bamboo Plantation) and Shri Sudhir Kumar, Consultant (Bamboo Web Portal). Dr. Anil Shetty, Scientist – D and Shri V Soundara Rajan, Scientist – C and their team from IWST provided logistic support.

For the convenience of participants and with a view to make the most of the limited time at disposal and work on hand, the training workshop was divided into following sessions:

Session – 1

- Welcome address

Session – 2

- Presentation by Dr. Vimal Kothiyal, ADG (RP), ICFRE / BTSG – ICFRE, Dehra Dun on Web Portal / Database (basic information flow and structure)

Session – 3

- Presentation on Web portal of National Bamboo Database (Working of Web Portal/database functioning and Data Entry Formats) by Shri Sudhir Kumar, Consultant, (Bamboo Web Portal) BTSG – ICFRE, Dehra Dun.
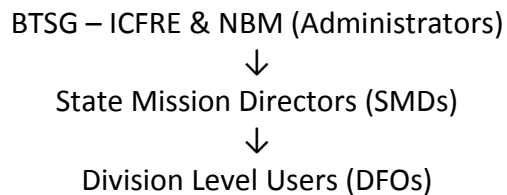
Session – 4

- Training Session on Web Portal /Database

Session – 5

- Question hour Session

One the first day of the training programme Dr. TS Rathore, Director, IWST apprised the participants regarding the sequence of events at NABM which lead to the development of this software/data base by BTSG-ICFRE. This software has been developed with the aim to take stock of bamboo resource at the national level as we do not possess any authentic base line data of the bamboo resource of India. This was followed by a brief formal introduction of participants and hosts. Dr. Vimal Kothiyal then started the proceedings of the day, he stressed upon the role of these training programmes and hoped that by the end of the day the participants would have acquainted themselves with software and basic steps of filling forms.

This was followed by a PowerPoint Presentation on the web portal/software by Dr. Kothiyal. Participants were informed that bamboo resource information of the whole Division/State/Country irrespective of schemes and funding agencies has to be included in the forms. He also explained that this software works on the following three tiered structure:

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BTSG – ICFRE & NBM (Administrators)

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State Mission Directors (SMDs)

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Division Level Users (DFOs)

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While dealing with step by step methodology for using this software Dr. Kothiyal explained to the participating Division Level Users that after filling all the forms, they will send the forms to the State Mission Director, but before sending it to the SMD the DLU must ensure that forms have been filled properly and factual information is entered, auto-check has been provided in the software to alert DLU in this regard. And prior to sending the properly filled in forms to the SMD, he would ask SMD to activate the **Send** button to enable him to send data. SMD will check the forms; if SMD finds data in order then he would forward it with his remarks to Admin (BTSG-ICFRE or NABM) after answering the mandatory queries. Before this SMD will however, request 'Admin' to activate the **Send** button to facilitate forwarding the data forms. In case SMD finds forms not properly filled-in or doubts genuineness of data he would send it back to the DLU for correction with his remarks. Participants were told that this software can even be accessed and operated through a smart phone and the procedure is very simple.

Dr. Kothiyal dealt with the role and function of each level. He also explained the procedure for creating the users at all the three levels and their approval procedure. Data entry formats were also discussed as well as the precautions required to be taken while entering the data. Other features of the web portal which are yet to be activated were also discussed by Dr. Kothiyal.

Shri Sudhir Kumar, Consultant (Bamboo Web Portal) under BTSG – ICFRE made a PowerPoint presentation on functioning and data input into the software. One by one all formats were displayed for point to point discussion in the house.

Hands on training session was also conducted simultaneously, which proved to be quite useful as participating DLUs took keen interest in general operation of software, creation of division

level IDs, filling up of formats, using correct units, forwarding filled in formats to the SMD, correction of data, etc. This part of training to the DLUs was imparted on one to one basis.

The workshop ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Vimal Kothiyal to all the participants for actively participating in workshop and providing their value time. Participants also thanked for short but helpful workshop.

BTSG-ICFRE acknowledges with thanks the excellent facilities provided by Dr. TS Rathore, in Charge Director, IWST and Dr. Anil Shetty, Scientist – D and Shri V Soundara Rajan, Scientist – C and their team for overall support rendered in successful organization of this training programme.

Photographs of the Fourth Training Workshop on 'National Bamboo Database for the Division Level Users (DFOs) held at IWST, Bengaluru on 11th and 12th December 2015